Restricting the number of independent candidates for Elections

*338. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to limit the number of independent candidates contesting the elections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a and (b) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which is pending in the Rajya Sabha, contains a proposal to increase the amount of security deposit to be made by an independent candidate. Meanwhile, it is also proposed to have a meeting of leaders of parties in Parliament to discuss a composite reform of the electoral law.

Cost Audit Report of Companies

*339. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the companies which have not submitted cost audit reports to his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) what action has been taken against them; and

(c) what are the details of cost audit reports which have been scrutinised during the year 1991-92 and what are the findings of each?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) and (b) A statement giving the names of the companies who have not submitted Cost Audit Reports during the three years 1987-88 to 1989-90 is attached.

[See Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 65] Registrar of Companies concerned have been requested to initiate necessary proceedings including launching of prosecution in these cases.

(c) During the year 1991-92, so far 326 Cost Audit reports have been received. A copy each of these Cost Audit Reports was also sent to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and the Administrative Ministry concerned for appropriate action at ther end. Review of Cost Audit reports revealed cases of excessive profits. misutilisation of imports, under utilisation of capacity, inefficiency in the usage of raw materials, deficiency in the maintenance of cost records etc. These issues have been taken up with the concerned Ministries, Cost Auditors and the companies and the follow up action in each case is in progress.

Issuing passports from Hyderabad and Madras passport offices

*340. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of applications filed per day with the passport offices of Hyderabad and Madras;

(b) the number of passports issued per day from there;

(c) what is the time taken to get the passport after applying;

(d) what steps have been taken to avoid delay; and